

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraphs [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] As illustrated in FIG. 9B, the fiber end assembly 900 may be inserted into a back shell 913 of a terminus 924, for example, until the protective tubing 904 contacts an inner wall 911 of the back shell 913 and a portion of the bare fiber ~~904~~ 902 extends from an end of the terminus 924. Accordingly, the length of the bare fiber 902 and tubing 904 may depend on the dimensions of the terminus 924.

Please replace paragraphs [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] Prior to insertion, epoxy 907 (or other suitable adhesive) may be deposited into the back shell 913, for example, via a syringe or other type epoxy dispenser, to hold the bare fiber ~~904~~ 902 in the terminus 924. A bead of epoxy 911, or other suitable type material, may be deposited at the rear of the back shell 913 to act as a strain relief. The epoxy may then be cured, for example, by heating the terminus assembly in some type of heating chamber, taking care to protect the bare fiber ~~904~~ 902 from direct contact with a heating surface.

Please replace paragraphs [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] After the epoxy has cured and the terminus assembly has cooled, the bare fiber ~~904~~ 902 may be cleaved (e.g., just above a bead of epoxy 909 formed at an end of the terminus 924) using any suitable cleaving means, such as a hand-held cleave tool. For some embodiments, the cleaved bare fiber ~~904~~ 902 and terminus end 926 may be air polished (e.g., using a 12u Al-Oxide Foam backed paper in small circular motion) until the epoxy bead 909 feels smooth to the touch.